GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2517
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Safety at Workplaces
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the details of number of industrial accidents during each of the last three years and the current year, industry-wise and State/UT-wise;
(b)whether the Government conducts inspections of factories, manufacturing units, workplaces etc. to check for adequate safety measures like fire equipment, fire exits, safety gear for workers in factories etc.;
(c)if so, the details thereof alongwith frequency of inspection done
during the said period, State/UT-wise and factory-wise;
(d)whether the Government has taken steps or plans to take steps to encourage and mandate the safety of labour at workplaces and if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and
(e)the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to avoid industrial accidents/deaths in the Country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)
(a) to (c): As per the information collected by the Chief Inspector of Factories, the State-wise fatal & non-fatal injuries in registered factories under the Factories Act, 1948 for the years 2012, 2013 & 2014 is enclosed as Annexure-I.
The State Governments through the office of the Chief Inspector of Factories carry out inspections to ensure compliance of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder, the details of inspections carried out in factories registered under the Factories Act, 1948, for the years 2012, 2013 & 2014 is enclosed as Annexure-II.
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(d) & (e): The Government of India has enacted a comprehensive legislation i.e. the Factories Act, 1948, for taking care of the occupational safety, health & welfare issues of the workers employed in manufacturing sector. There are elaborate provisions pertaining to the health, safety and welfare provisions related to hazardous process, working hours, penal provisions etc. and the Rules prescribed there under are sufficient to ensure safety of the workers as far as the manufacturing sector is concerned. The Factories Act, 1948 and the State Factories Rules framed there under are enforced by the respective State/UTs.
The Government of India, Ministry of Labour& Employment, had declared the National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at Workplace(NPSHEW) on 20th February, 2009.
The purpose of this National Policy is to establish a preventive safety and health culture in the country through elimination of the incidents of work related injuries, diseases, fatalities, disasters and to enhance the well-being of employees in all the sectors of economic activity in the country.
The Policy contains preamble, goals, objectives & action programme: The action programme includes enforcement, national standards, compliance, awareness, research & development, occupational safety and health, skills development, data collection and review.
The salient features of the Policy are as below:-
i. It recognizes safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental human right.
ii. It aims at enhancing the well-being of the employees and the society at large by eliminating work related injuries, diseases, etc.
iii. It enumerates the goals to be achieved and brings into focus the objective of continuous reduction in the incidence of work related injuries and diseases.
It describes the action programme with eight key strategies i.e. Enforcement, Development of national standards, Compliance, Awareness, Research and Development, Skills development, Data collection and review.
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